



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS SIGNS 2005 MONROE COUNTY BUDGET

*** *Bi-Partisan Coalition of County Legislators Joins County Executive* ***

*** *Brooks' First Budget Freezes Property Tax Rate* ***

Calling it a victory for our community, Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** signed the 2005 Monroe County Budget at a ceremony in the Atrium of the Monroe County Office Building. This is Brooks' first budget as County Executive.

"This is a budget that is fiscally responsible, a budget that is balanced, a budget that provides vital services to our constituents, a budget that begins to position us toward lasting financial stability, and a budget that does not raise taxes," said Brooks. "In short, this is a budget that we can all be proud of."

Joining Brooks were members of the bi-partisan coalition of County Legislators who approved her budget earlier this week by a vote of 19-10, including the **16 members of the Republican Caucus and Democratic Caucus members Kevin Murray, Fred Amato and Mitch Rowe.**

"I would like to thank those Legislators who voted to approve the budget I submitted, both Republicans and Democrats," said Brooks. "This vote, this budget, is a victory. But, it's not just a victory for me and it's not just a victory for the Legislators who approved it. It is a victory for our community. A victory for taxpayers."

Brooks pointed out that the 2005 Budget does not raise taxes. The \$9.10 tax rate that the County Legislature enacted for 2004 is frozen at that same level in 2005.

As she did when she presented the budget to the Legislature last month, Brooks cautioned that County Government must continue to be diligent in their efforts to control costs and improve efficiencies.

"The multi-year budget forecast, which I included in this budget document, clearly shows that we still have much work to do and many tough choices to make to bring Monroe County into lasting structural balance," said Brooks.

Brooks concluded by thanking her financial team, the Budget Advisory Team, the County's Department and Division Heads and County employees. She also thanked the residents and taxpayers of the community who have rallied around her budget and encouraged her with their support.

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